(b) whether with the finalisation of Combined Seniority List in the Section Officers' Grade in January, 1993 there is neither any legal hitch nor judicial stay in preparation of these panels;

(c) the reasons for delay in preparing these panels and steps Government have taken to ensure early drawing of these panels; and

(d) by when these panels are likely to be prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d) Because of prolonged litigation relating to interse seniority of Direct Recruit and promotee Section Officers, Grade I panels of CSS could not be drawn up after 1986. However, a Common Seniority List (CSL) was finalised in pursuance of Supreme Court directions and issued to all the Cadre Authorities on 29-1-93. This CSL has been challenged in CAT but has not been stayed by CAT. A proposal for preparing 1987 Grade I panel has been sent to the UPSC on 21-3-1994. Thereafter, proposals for the 1988 and the 1989 Grade I panels have also been sent to the UPSC. The UPSC has been requested to prepare the panels at an early date.

Combined seniority list of Section Officers

3223. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Secretariat (Direct Recruits Gazetted) Association has made several representations to Government bringing out factual inaccuracies and inconsistencies in counter affidavits filed on behalf of Union of India in reply to the applications filed in Central Administrative Tribunal challenging the Combined Seniority list of Section Officers;

(b) if so, what are the points made in these representations and what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any action is proposed against officers responsible for giving false and incorrect informations on affidavits and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The counter Affidavits have been filed on behalf of Union of India, based on the legal and factual position of the case filed in the Central Administrative Tribunal. The case, in any case, is subjudice at present and decision of the CAT is awaited.

Revision of pay scales of UDCs

3224. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the matter pertaining to the revision of pay scales of Upper Division Clerks working in the Central Government Departments has been referred to the Board of Arbitration where it is pending;

(b) is so, the details in this respect; and

(c) how much time the Board of Arbitration is expected to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) A demand for revision of pay scale of UDCs of Central Secretariat Clerical Service from Rs. 1200-2040 to Rs. 1400-2600 made in the Departmental Council of the Department of Personnel and Training was considered. It was, however, not found acceptable. The matter was referred to Board of Arbitration in May, 1992, where it is pending. It has now been listed for hearing on 15th and 16th September, 1994.

Safe drinking water to rural population

3225. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what percent of population was having access to safe drinking water in rural areas during 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): The State-wise percentage of population having access to state drinking water in rural areas during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 171, Annexure No. 51.]

Development of Wasteland in Gujarat

3226. SHRI GOPAL SINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of wasteland in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total wasteland in Gujarat and details of the proposed development programmes in this regard and the estimated amount likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the total funds allocated to the State of Gujarat for the purpose;

(d) whether the services of voluntary organisations are also sought for the wasteland development in Gujarat;

(e) whether the previous performance of these voluntary organisations has been reviewed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH): (a) No detailed survey has yet been conducted for identification of wastelands in the country. However, the Department of Wastelands Development has commissioned National Wasteland Identification Project with the collaboration of National Remote Sensing Agency. Under this programme 237 districts in the country having more than 5% geographical area under wastelands have been mapped. Precise information for the whole country is, therefore, not available. However, according to one estimate the extent of wastelands is 129.574 million hectares. The State-wise distribution of wastelands is given in the annexed statement (*see* below).

(b) and (c) The extent of forest and non-forest wastelands in Gujarat is 7.836 million hectares. The development of wastelands in Gujarat State is carried out through afforestation / plantation activities on degraded lands including development of forest and non-forest wastelands under Point No. 16 of the 20 Point Programme. This is done through various schemes of the State and Central Government. The funds allocated in each of the last three years under Point No. 16 of the 20 Point Programme to Gujarat State are given below:-

Year	Funds allocated in Rs. Lakhs
1991-92	5819.69
1992-93	6713.93
1993-94	6684.04
1994-95	Figures not yet available

The Department of Wastelands Development since July, 1992 and upto 31.3.1994 has approved 6 projects under the IWDP Scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 2198.98 lakhs and 3 projects under Grant-in-Aid Scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 19.64 lakhs for the development of non-forest wastelands in the State of Gujarat.

(d) Yes, Sir. Voluntary Agencies have been associated for the development of wastelands in the State of Gujarat under Grant-in-Aid Scheme and Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme.

(e) and (f) Voluntary organisations desirous of seeking assistance for development of wastelands apply to National Wastelands Development Board on their own accord and are entertained under the Grant-in-Aid Scheme. On receipt these applications are scrutinised in the Board. Before such cases are considered for sanction, a preappraisal report is obtained either from the District Rural Development Agency or the State Forest Department. The District Rural Development Agency after verification of the capability and credibility of the Voluntary Organisation sends its recommendations. Based on these recommendations and the technical feasibility of the scheme, the project is cleared by National Wastelands Development Board. While commenting upon the capability and credibility of the Voluntary organisation the appraising agency also reviews the previous performance, if any, of the voluntary organisation. The Board while sanctioning projects to those Voluntary organisations who have already executed projects under the Grantin-Aid Scheme also reviews the evaluation report of the progress of the project already executed by these voluntary organisations.

Statement

Estimates of Wastelands in India

(Million Hectares)

State/UT	Non-Forest Degraded Area	Forest Degraded Area	Total
Andhra Pradesh	7.682	3.734	11.416
Assam	0.935	0.795	1.730
Bihar	3.896	1.562	5.458
Gujarat	7.153	0.683	7.836
Haryana	2.404	0.074	2.478
Himachal Pradesh	1.424	0.534	1.958
Jammu & Kashmir	0.531	1.034	1.565
Karnataka	7.122	2.043	9.165
Kerala	1.053	0.226	1.279
Madhya Pradesh	12.947	7.195	20.142
Maharashtra	11.560	2.841	14.401
Manipur	0.014	1.424	1.438
Meghalaya	0.815	1.103	1.918
Nagaland	0.508	0.878	1.386
Orissa	3.157	3.227	6.384
Punjab	1.151	0.079	1.230
Rajasthan	18.001	1.933	19.934
Sikkim	0.131	0.150	0.281
Tamil Nadu	3.392	1.009	4.401
Tripura	0.108	0.865	0.937
Uttar Pradesh	6.635	1.426	8.061
West Bengal	2.177	0.359	2.536
UT's	0.889	2.715	3.604
TOTAL	93.685	35.889	129.574

World Bank Assistance for Potable Water to M.P.

3227. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent the Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environment project for World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this project;

(c) the number of villages to be included in the proposed scheme; and

(d) the measure taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.